

to save it, we must agree on one basic truth: that the other side is not the enemy. The enemy is the stubbornness of our own biases.

□ 1215

The enemy is a political system that seeks to divide us for sport. Let's fight that and not each other. Our country is facing some serious issues right now, and our country will be much better served if Democrats and Republicans can come together.

My grandfather always told me that you can get through about any problem if you actually sit down with somebody and have a beer together. I have been trying to work with people since the first day I got here. I won't ever stop reaching across the aisle or trying to work with one another or sitting down and having a beer and listening to each other.

For the betterment of this country, we have to come together. We have to sit down, listen to each other, and maybe even have a beer.

In the spirit of bipartisanship and cooperation, I raise this glass to my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans.

#### WARNINGS FROM BIPARTISAN COMMISSION ON FEDERAL ELECTION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this is my eighth speech in a series on voter fraud, election theft, and the Presidential election.

There are three major flaws in America's elections that socialist Democrats exploit to steal elections.

First, voting by illegal aliens and other noncitizens is rampant because socialist Democrats made it illegal to require proof of citizenship when illegal aliens and other noncitizens demand to be registered to vote. In 2020, hundreds of thousands, and more likely millions, of illegal aliens and other noncitizens legally voted for Joe Biden after he promised them amnesty and citizenship if he is elected President.

Second, vote-by-mail schemes are both horribly prone to voter fraud and are illegal because they violate Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution and Congress' ensuing designation, with minor exceptions, of one 24-hour day as the election day during which citizens can vote. Yet, in 2020, socialist Democrats foisted vote-by-mail schemes on America in order to more easily engage in voter fraud and election theft.

Third, the lack of photo ID requirements makes it easier for paid socialist Democrat election thieves to steal elections with voter impersonators. While socialist Democrats and the fake news media repeatedly and falsely claim there was no voter fraud in 2020, what is most startling is this: America was warned 15 years ago that this would happen.

In 2005, a bipartisan Commission on Federal Election Reform co-chaired by Democrat President Jimmy Carter and Reagan White House Chief of Staff James Baker issued a 105-page report specifically warning about the very same systemic flaws the socialist Democrats used in 2020 to steal elections. The commission report warns: "Elections are the heart of democracy. If elections are defective, the entire democratic system is at risk."

Concerning noncitizen voting, the commission warned of a growing non-citizen voting threat, citing 784 noncitizen votes in a contested California congressional race. The commission recommended that "all States should use their best efforts to obtain proof of citizenship before registering voters."

Of course, that means repealing the socialist Democrat law that makes it illegal for voter registrars to require proof of citizenship when illegal aliens and other noncitizens demand to be registered to vote.

Concerning vote-by-mail schemes, the commission warned that vote by mail is "likely to increase the risks of fraud and of contested elections," adding that it remains "the largest source of potential voter fraud" because it is "vulnerable to abuse in several ways. Blank ballots mailed to the wrong address or to large residential buildings might get intercepted. . . . Vote buying schemes are far more difficult to detect when citizens vote by mail."

The commission recommended minimizing voting by mail.

On voter ID, the commission warned that the lack of photo ID opens the door to voter fraud and strongly recommended a photo ID requirement for voters, noting that "photo IDs currently are needed to board a plane, enter Federal buildings, and cash a check. Voting is equally important," and that "voters in nearly 100 democracies use a photo identification card without fear of infringement on their rights."

The commission recommended that "citizens should identify themselves as the correct person on the registration list when they vote." The problem "is not the magnitude of the fraud. In close or disputed elections, and there are many, a small amount of fraud could make the margin of difference."

How prophetic.

Mr. Speaker, America's republic is only as good as its election system. On January 6, 2021, I have a choice. I can ignore truth, surrender to socialism, and accept electoral college submissions from States with election systems so badly flawed as to render their vote submissions unreliable, untrustworthy, and unworthy of acceptance. Or I can fight for America and move to reject them.

I can't speak for anyone else, but as for me, MO BROOKS from Alabama's Fifth Congressional District, I choose to fight for America.

#### HONORING VICKI WAGNER MANSFIELD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and the ray of light that was Vicki Wagner Mansfield, a resident of Troy, Michigan, who passed away last month after a 2-year battle with brain cancer.

Vicki, simply put, was a pillar of our community, known and beloved by many. She was raised in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, and she moved to Troy with her husband, Bruce, in 1985 to raise their family.

Her memory is carried forward by her beloved Bruce; her two amazing daughters, Abbey and Rachel; and her delightful grandson, Hank.

Vicki was known as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, friend, and aunt. She is celebrated in our community for her artistic creativity, that forthrightness, her fierce loyalty, and the contributions that she made as an active volunteer in our community.

Vicki was a mother's mother. She was active in PTA, school events, and political activities, always with the goal of: How do I make this world a better place?

So many former students through the Birmingham school system have stood up to say how much Vicki meant to them, how involved she was as a parent with the Girl Scouts or in a play that she did. It was always because she cared about the outcomes of their lives.

Vicki took the time in some of the remaining days that she had to message me to say—not with a complaint or with a question—how much she cared about the work that we do in the Congress, to pass along to those who are in elected office a note of gratitude and thanks to say keep going, keep giving it all you can.

That is certainly something that Vicki did every day of her life.

Her passing is also a stark reminder of our work ahead to improve the research and treatment of cancer in this country. Glioblastoma is a common and aggressive brain cancer with an unfortunately high mortality rate. A strong Federal investment is essential to improve our understanding and care of this tragic disease and for the providers like those at the Henry Ford Medical Center and what they rely on for good research.

I carry Vicki's light like a torch in the fight for increased funding for cancer research. As we inch toward this deadline to fund our government, I continue to urge and work with my colleagues to join me in supporting robust brain cancer research funding at the NIH and DOD to continue this life-saving work. We cannot let those suffering from brain cancer and their families fail.

# CONGRATULATING GAIL LANGWORTHY ON HER RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Gail Langworthy, an incredibly kind and dedicated employee of mine who has served my constituents for 8 years back in the district.

Gail is moving on to an exciting new phase of her life, and she is leaving our office to enjoy her retirement.

When Gail isn't working hard for the people of Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, she is an active volunteer for the Breedtown Cemetery Association in Venango County. She enjoys dancing, visiting her three grandchildren in Florida, and exploring local trails while riding bikes with her husband, Jeff.

Gail has also been described as an avid thrift shop and yard sale junkie. Gail will be missed by our entire team, but I am happy for her as she begins this new adventure.

Thank you, Gail, for your hard work, dedication, and service, and enjoy your retirement.

## RECOGNIZING DAVE BAILEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dave Bailey, who has worked for 31 years for the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer by supporting Member offices with all sorts of technology needs.

Dave has been a frequent visitor to our office to help me and my staff with our computers any time that we had an issue. He also played a critical role in ensuring our office was ready to telework as we transitioned our lives online at the start of this pandemic.

Simply put, we would not be able to do our jobs without people like Dave Bailey.

I am disappointed that I will not be able to share my well wishes with Dave in person, but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for his three decades of service and for all the help that he has provided me in my office.

Dave, be well, and enjoy your much-deserved retirement.

## COVID VACCINE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we reached a truly incredible milestone in the fight against coronavirus.

On Monday, the first COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer was administered, and today, the FDA is meeting to approve the Moderna vaccine.

The timeline of vaccine development was made possible by Operation Warp Speed, and it is truly a modern medical miracle. In the 1930s, at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Jonas Salk began work on a polio vaccine. It wasn't until 1953, 23 years later, that the vaccine was successfully tested.

Operation Warp Speed has helped shrink the vaccine timeline and knock

down barriers in delays. To develop a safe, effective vaccine in under a year is a testament to the incredible scientific progress we have seen over the years and the refusal of scientists to surrender to this terrible virus.

The marshaling of the public sector and the private sector together by President Trump has really resulted in this vaccine that we have all been desperately waiting on. The vaccine is a critical step in saving lives, saving jobs, and saving our economy.

I thank President Trump for his leadership in Operation Warp Speed, and I thank all the incredible scientists, doctors, medical professionals, and the others who have helped make history.

## COVID RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today, on the eve of a hopeful vote on the next COVID relief bill that our Problem Solvers Caucus has so ably led the charge on, I rise to tell the stories of three individuals from my district. Their stories represent just a fraction of the messages I have been receiving on COVID relief.

But today, on the floor of the people's House, I rise because they deserve to be heard. Their stories are the reason we refuse to go home for Christmas without an agreement. They are why we continue to fight until a deal is reached.

First, I would like to talk about Bob, who wrote to me from Brighton, Michigan. Bob is a pillar of his community. After serving his Nation in the Army National Guard for 6 years, he has been giving back to his fellow veterans for over 21 years as a district post commander for The American Legion.

But for the first time in 16 years, Bob recently found himself laid off from his job in construction due to the coronavirus. To cover his expenses, like 171,000 others in Michigan, he had to file a first-time claim for unemployment insurance. Despite being eligible for the State's maximum benefit, he cannot make ends meet.

Between medications and health insurance, mortgage and car payments, utilities and food, he is having to turn to his savings, and he knows that won't last long.

Bob is responsible, a straight shooter, and he has served our country. He is the kind of Michigander who anyone would want in their corner, but right now, he is asking for help, not sometime in the future, not after the inauguration of a new President.

He is asking us to pass a bill that helps the millions of Americans who are in need. It is our job, and it is our duty to rise to that call.

□ 1230

I am also pushing for relief for Richard, who is from my hometown of Holly, Michigan. Richard chairs our

Downtown Development Authority Board, which supports the businesses on Main Street, many of which have been devastated by the pandemic.

Richard has had a front row seat to how critical the situation is, so he wrote me, asking what the Federal Government is going to do to save small businesses from bankruptcy.

I had the chance to talk to Richard over the phone this week, and we agreed that small businesses need loans and clarity on whether those loans will be forgiven or if they can deduct that loan in tax season. This is what we will hopefully be voting on in the next 48 hours in the update to the PPP program.

Richard and I do not see eye to eye on every issue, but when it comes to our local businesses, we are residents of Holly first. We agree that small businesses need a bridge to get them through the next year when the vaccine will be widely available. After all, it is business owners like Richard who have shown the grit and resilience needed to adapt to these challenging times. It is only right that we have their backs when they need it most.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I am pushing for this bill because of Karli. She is a server at Mackle's in Hartland, Michigan—where, by the way, they have the best buffalo chicken wing tenders ever—and the best part of the job for her is creating memorable experiences for guests who come to share a meal. But these days, with the kitchen converted fully to takeout, she is working half as many shifts and taking home half the pay she used to.

COVID blindsided her and the rest of the service industry, and now she is worried about the bills that are piling up. In between shifts and stretching every paycheck, she is going to school to become a nurse, joining the absolute front line of America's latest war. Simply put, she can't imagine going into the new year with no extra help.

Mr. Speaker, she ends her letter with these words: "Please help take care of us so we can get back to taking care of you as our guests."

Take care of us so we can take care of you.

Mr. Speaker, think about that for a moment. In the middle of a global pandemic, one that has claimed 300,000 American lives and upended our way of life, that is the mantra of folks on the ground, folks who just want to take care of their neighbors and their communities. They are not asking for the government to solve every problem, but they expect their government to act.

For residents in my district, an agreement is more than just numbers on a page. It is a ray of hope that maybe they will spend Christmas a little less worried. It is a new year that they can truly look forward to. It is a sign that, when their backs are up against the wall and they need help, Congress can get in a room and agree on a deal.